

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

HAAPANIEMI et al

Atty. Ref.: 3952-6

Serial No. 09/367,108

Group: 1772

Filed: August 10, 1999

Examiner: Paterson

For: **A STRUCTURAL PLY OF A PAPERBOARD CORE,
PAPERBOARD CORE MADE, AND AMETHOD OF
IMPROVING THE STIFFNESS OF A APPAERBOARD
CORE**

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September 2, 2003
(September 1 = Labor Day Holiday)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

APPLICANTS' REPLY BRIEF

Sir:

This Brief is being filed in response to certain points raised in the Examiner's Answer dated July 1, 2003.

Applicants firstly note that the Examiner's Answer asserts that the Applicants' Brief did **not** contain a "...statement identifying the related appeals and interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal." However, on page 2, Section II of the Brief, under the heading "Related Appeals and Interferences", the following statement is clearly present"

"The appellant and the undersigned are not aware of any related appeals or interferences which will directly affect or

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be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal."

Accordingly, the applicants' Brief did in fact contain the requisite statement regarding potential related appeals and interferences and, as such, the record in this regard should be corrected by an appropriately revised Examiner's Answer.

On a more substantive issue, applicants note that the Qui reference teaches that the surface layers of the core should be more dense material than the internal layers therebetween. However, since the Condebelt board is denser than other boards, the core the applicants are claiming has the denser plies in the middle. Thus, even if the core of Qiu were partially made of Condebelt material, the structure of such a core would be clearly, and patentably, different.

Reversal of all rejections of record is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: Richard Bashe 22770 (for)

Bryan H. Davidson
Reg. No. 30,251

BHD:lmy
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100